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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-14
EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECOSOC
SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC: GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY. ECOSOC PLENARY MET ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 14, AND HEARD SPEECHES BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECLA, THE SYG OF IMCO, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUDAN, IRAQ, TUNISIA, PORTUGAL, AND THE OBSERVER OF MONGOLIA. END SUMMARY

2. ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IGESIAS GAVE A GENERALLY HOPEFUL SPEEC, CITING PROGRESS MADE AT THE ECLA CONFERENCE IN GUATEMALA AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR NIEO AND CERDS. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE INTENTION TO WORK WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) AS WELL AS TO IMPORVE RELATIONS WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. ECLA PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON TCDC, AND NOTED PROGRESS IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH SIGNS OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND RECOGNIZED THAT THE PROGRESS OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD WAS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE PROGRESS OF THE LDCS. IN CONCLUSION HE SAID THAT THE NIEO REDUCED LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY, AND EXPRESSED FIRM SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION.

3. THE SUDANESE REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSED THE DISAPPOINTING LEVEL OF GROWTH OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE PARTICULARLY ACUTE
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SITUATION IN AFRICA. HE WELCOMED THE POSITIVE ROLE OF OPEC IN ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND ALSO US SUPPORT FOR "THE CONCEPT OF NIEO." PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF FINANCE AND DEBT IS IMPORTANT TO SUDAN, AND CIEC'S AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FUND WAS PARTICULARLY WELCOME. HE RECOGNIZED THE "LOGIC OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND BASIC NEEDS" BUT STRESSED THAT DEVELOPMENT IN ALL AREAS WAS NECESSARY AS WELL. HE

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GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE UN, AND EXPRESSED HOPE

THAT THE SYG WOULD ADOPT A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

4. THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM IRAQ STRESSED THE BASIC LACK OF PROGRESS IN MEETING GOAS SET BY NIEO RESOLUTIONS, CERDS AND THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION. CIEC AND UNCTAD IV HAD PROVED FAILURES IN THAT THEY HAD NOT DEALT WITH TERMS OF TRADE PROBLEMS, EXTERNAL DEBT, INFLATION, AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY DUE TO FLUCTUATIONS IN COMMODITIES SUPPLY. HE SAID THAT "WHILE SOME STATEMENTS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CONTAINED POSITIVE SENTIMENTS," THE LDCS STILL AWAITED THE TRANSLATIONS OF THESE SENTIMENTS INTO ACTION. HE IMPLIED A LACK OF SUPPORT FOR THE SYG'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY INSTITUE, SAYING THAT THE UN WAS APPROPRIATE FORUM IN WHICH TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS OF ENERGY ALONG WITH OTHER QUESTIONS, AND NOT IN ISOLATION. BY WORKING COLLECTIVELY AND REGIONALLY, OPEC HAD SET AN EXAMPLE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE SUPPORTED A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TNCS, CALLED FOR SUPPORT, BOTH "MORALLY AND MATERIALLY" FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA, AND CALLED FOR ADMISSION BY CONSENSUS OF THE PLO AND EGYPT INTO ECWA.

5. TUNISIA SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE NIEO, COMPLAINING THAT DEVELOPMENT GOALS HAD NOT BEEN MET, BUT CALLING CIEC A "RELATIVE SUCCESS." IN A REFERENCE TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS CONCEPT, HE CALLED FOR "PERMANENT SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF POVERY RATHER THATN
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TMEPORARY ONES." THE SYG'S ENERGY PROPOSAL WILL BE EXAMINED BY TUNISIA WITH GREAT INTEREST, BUT HE ADDED THAT THE DISCUSSION OF ENERGY SHOULD NOT BE DIVORCED FROM THAT OF SIMILAR QUESTIONS ON ALL RAW MATERIALS.

6. THE SYG OF IMCO DISCUSSED GREAT PROGRESS IN THE ORGANIZATION IN TERMS OF A SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN MEMBERSHIP, INCREASED COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN MARITIME TECHNOLOGY.

7. REPRESENTATIVES LOPES OF PORTUGAL EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT ON THE GROWING INDEBTEDNESS AND LACK OF GROWTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE CRITICIZED PROBLEMS OF TRADE, PROTECTIONIST TRENDS, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND PERISTANT INFLATION WHICH FURTHERED INEQUALITY AMONG NATIONS.

8. THE MONGOLIAN OBSERVER DISCUSSED THE POWER OF THE STATE SECTOR IN DEVELOPMENT, CALLING PRIVATE SECTOR ACTION INADEQUATE.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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